

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Survey of Military Supply Shipments from the U.S.S.R.

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1. An evaluation of all reports on military shipments on border crossing points resulted in the following summary of Soviet supply from the U.S.S.R. in August 1952:

Type of supply	Number of Cars
Ammunition	475
Fuel	46
Ration supplies	23
Articles of clothing	6
Artillery pieces, other arms and equipment	305
Tank and tank spare parts	472
Aircraft and air force equipment	48
Medical material	12
Unidentified military goods	61
Motor vehicles and motor vehicle spare parts	1,459
total:	2,907 cars

The average normal volume of 1,000 incoming carloads per month was considerably surpassed in August 1952, primarily because of the motor vehicle exchange program which started in mid-February. From the beginning of the exchange program until 31 August, 9,643 motor vehicles arrived from, and about 7,200 old motor vehicles were sent back to the U.S.S.R. The number of incoming vehicles in August 1952 amounted to 1,345. In August, the VP received a considerably increased amount of equipment from the U.S.S.R., namely 253 tanks, mostly T-34s, 520 artillery pieces of all caliber, and 180 prime movers. The 475 carloads of incoming ammunition in August, is a slight increase as compared to the period from 1 May to 31 July. The volume of 46 incoming fuel shipments was low. The cars presumably contained special gasoline or byproducts. The first shipment of MIG-15s after an interval of two months reportedly arrived on 20 August.

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2. Therefore it appears that the motor vehicle exchange program was again given priority in the field of Soviet supply in August. Although it is assumed that the exchange ratio is 1:1, it is notable that the about 10,000 new motor vehicles constitute about 20 percent of the actual stock of motor vehicles of the Soviet Forces in East Germany. The combat readiness of the troops is therefore undoubtedly considerably improved. In addition to this program, the speedy equipping of a large VP unit under activation in East Mecklenburg, was also started in August.

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